1200 M

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Another Word on 12 M Postmarks

DEC13

1963

By Paul Tarnow, #4404 9423 Haddington Drive West Indianapolis, IN 46256-1149 such as Flora, OH 11/30/1949 – does this imply the actual final postmark of the last day in service or perhaps the final postmark before taking a luncheon break on the last day?

Looking at standard CDS/HC/MC (circular date stamp/hand cancel/machine cancel) postmarks in the stamped-cover era, one can indeed find other usages of the '12 M' time designation. The EKU (earliest known use) I have

known use) I have personally seen is on a cover from 1871. Usage of 12 M appears to have b e e n

regard to Midday postmarks (see PMCC

12 - M

July 2011 *Bulletin*, back page): there are, of course,

variations that could make things even more interesting and/or challenging. Within the time marking area of a postmark dial, even the '12

M' has variations: with a short line between the 12 and the M, with a long line between the 12 and the



M, with no line between the 12 and the M, 12 00 M, etc. And, we are presuming that the postmark dial is intact and had adequate ink such that it was not intended to be '12 AM' or '12 PM'. Additional examples include inverted markings such as the time and/or the date, which in no way proves or disproves the notion of midday or midnight as these mistakes come at all hours of the day. Another variation would be 12 M on an apparent Last Day postmark

reasonably common during the 1880's and 1890's on CDS transit dials, primarily found on the back of an envelope. Perhaps less common were 12 M markings within the CDS and/or HC on the front of an envelope or card.

Now, getting back to the notion of the '12 M' postmark: some countries leave nothing to doubt and incorporate the word 'NOON' right in the postmark – and even if it is inverted it still looks the same!

PMCC membership is diverse:

some folks collect pictorial cancellations, some collect 4-bar hand cancellations, some collect date calendars, some collect postal history, some collect transit markings, etc. That's what makes PMCC a great organization as there is something for

everyone, whether collecting postmarks strictly for pleasure or also for their research potential.

More postmarks on the next page.

